

2003 Grassland Reserve Program - New Hampshire Ranking Criteria

8/11/2003

Producer:	County:
Acres to be enrolled:	Length of easement or contract:
Estimated annual rental rate:	Estimated easement cost:
Acres of native cover:	

Please refer to the Guidance Document for guidelines on the use of this rating sheet.

Ranking Criteria	Point Assignments			Points
Site adjacent to (frontage on) public road?	yes = 60 pts			
Distance (by roads) to residential area	<1 mile = 60 pts	<5 miles = 30 pts	> 5 miles = 0 pts	
Threat of conversion to cropland: Site has prime farmland soils?	≥ 50% prime farmland soils = 60 pts	< 50 & ≥ 25 % prime farmland soils = 40 pts	contains prime farmland soils = 20 pts	
Threat of conversion to cropland: Site has soils of statewide or local importance?	≥50% soils of statewide or local importance = 40 pts	< 50 & ≥ 25 % soils of statewide or local importance = 20 pts	contains soils of statewide or local importance = 5 pts	
Land under greatest threat of development - (farming on the edge * see notes)?	yes, area in red on map = 60 pts	yes, area in green on map = 40 pts	other area = 0 pts	
Threat of conversion to forestland?	significant, softwoods are scattered over ≥10% of land area and/or site not mowed in last 3 years = 60 pts	moderate, softwoods scattered over ≥2% of land area and/or site not mowed in last year = 25 pts	slight, isolated scattering of softwoods = 5 pts	
Threat to grassland from non-native invasive species?	widespread problem ≥ 10% of land area = 60 pts	moderate, invasive species identified on site = 20 pts		
Is the property adjacent to or near other protected lands** (see notes)?	yes, adjacent to permanent conservation land = 30 pts	yes, adjacent to other conservation land = 20 pts	adjacent to any land under contract for management as grassland = 5 pts	
Size of parcel	≥ 40 acres = 20 pts	< 40 acres & ≥ 10 acres = 5 pts		
Is the land part of an existing grazing operation?	yes = 20 pts			
Is the land an intensively managed rotational grazing system?	yes = 10 pts			
Is the land actively used for non-grazing hay production?	yes = 10 pts			
Site is managed to benefit T&E species and use/occurrence of T&E has been documented	endangered species = 20 pts	threatened species = 10 pts	at-risk species = 5 pts	
Site serves as habitat that promotes and enhances plant and animal biodiversity	yes, following a conservation plan to manage site for wildlife benefit = 10 pts			
Site requires restoration?	no restoration required = 40 pts			
Estimated operation and maintenance costs per acre ?	permanent pasture = 10 pts	improved pasture = 5 pts	hayland = 2 points	
Partnership contributions that reduce USDA's cost or increase project benefits	Significant partnership input in planning or financing (≥35%) = 10 pts	Moderate partnership input in planning or financing (<35% and ≥10% = 5 pts	Limited partnership input in planning or financing (<10% and ≥ 1%) = 2 pts	
Type of easement?	Permanent easement = 100 pts	30 year easement = 30 pts		
Length of rental agreement	30 year = 30 pts	20 year = 15 pts	15 year = 10 pts 10 year = 3 pts	
TOTAL POINTS				0

Notes

* American Farmland Trust- Farming on the Edge map provided or found at http://www.farmland.org/farmingontheedge/map_newhampshire.pdf

** Data available from GRANIT Conservation Lands Viewer found at <http://www.granit.sr.unh.edu/>

When creating map, for map display settings under conservation lands select "protection level"

Other documented conservation lands can also receive points.